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ican republics are hornets' nests guarded by the Yankee; Finland and Poland may become autonomous, Russia constitutional, Austria democratic and modern, Hungary and Slavonia federal, and the Balkans free and reformed;—finally the whole world except the Sultan is alarmed at his pretentious imperialism.

M. Bérard concludes with an examination of *Menaces et Offres Allemandes*, taking as his text a speech by von Bülow to the effect that any attempts to construct a circle of antagonistic powers and thus isolate Germany would be dangerous to the peace of Europe. This, according to our author, is just what is most likely to happen. A mutual understanding between Russia, England, and France is one of the probabilities of the near future, and Denmark and Norway will turn toward the west rather than to Prussian tyranny. The union of southern Europe will be even more easily accomplished: the Triple Alliance will die; German competition weighs heavily on Italian industries and shipping; Hungary rising rapidly to a position of industrial independence will resist the tutelage of both Vienna and Berlin; in the contest for the Levant trade, the merchants of Fiume and Trieste find formidable competitors in the ubiquitous German and no mere political alliance can effectively withstand the strain of trade war. Slavs, Magyars, and Latins are destined to be linked by economic interests and the future seems a happy one for the Frenchman. If brilliant hypothesis, carefully selected statistics, and ardent hopes were conclusive, this would be an impressive book. Whether its thesis is a prophecy or a delusion, the future alone can decide.

CHARLES A. BEARD.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*Letters and Recollections of George Washington.* Edited by LOUISA LEAR EYRE. (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company. 1906. Pp. xi, 289.)

*George Washington, Patriot, Soldier, Statesman, First President of the United States.* By JAMES A. HARRISON. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. Pp. xxiii, 481.)

MRS. EYRE'S volume comprises ninety-one letters from Washington to her grandfather, Tobias Lear, between the years 1790 and 1799, Lear's account of the last days of Washington, and one hundred and thirty-nine letters from Washington to various persons on matters connected with the private life of the writer of them. Very few of the letters in the book are included in either Ford's or Sparks's collections, no doubt for the reason that they do not deal with the more important public phase of the life of Washington. Moreover, most of them have been printed hitherto in special editions, which are not readily accessible to the student. Their publication in this popular form will confer a favor, therefore, on the public, although the present edition has the

serious shortcoming of having neither index, list of letters, nor explanatory notes. The text itself, so far as there is duplication of selections, shows unimportant variations from the two leading collections; and the forms given by Mrs. Eyre have the appearance of being the older ones. Of the Lear matter we are given by Mrs. Eyre a reproduction of the copies of the letters made by Benjamin Lincoln Lear for Sparks, who in his own collection, as is well known, made liberal corrections with the purpose of making Washington's style conform to modern standards. Mr. Ford adopted the better plan of making only those changes which a reasonable desire to avoid eccentricities would suggest. Mrs. Eyre's text conforms more closely to Ford's in those few letters which are included in both collections, and where there are variations her forms seem more antique, which raises the presumption that she has followed the originals with pretty fair exactness. But it must be said that the reviewer has not been able to compare her texts with the original letters, and that, of course, is the only means of coming to a sure judgment on this point.

The history of the letters to Lear is an interesting story, and one not easily attainable. The originals went after Lear's death to his son, Benjamin Lincoln Lear, who died intestate, leaving a widow and one daughter, Mrs. Eyre. When the widow died the daughter was in Europe. On her return she learned that the correspondence in question was in the hands of another relative, and brought suit to recover. Judgment was given for the other relative, but in the end the letters passed into the hands of the latter's lawyer, from whom they passed to his stepson, a recently prominent American literary man. The latter kept them together till his death, but since that event many of them have come into the hands of Mr. W. H. Bixby, of St. Louis, who has printed what he had in a limited edition. While the papers were in the hands of Benjamin Lincoln Lear, he made copies of the letters and of his father's account of the last days of Washington for Jared Sparks, who later presented these copies bound in a volume to Mrs. Eyre with an inscription which she has reproduced in the volume now under review. It is from this manuscript volume that she takes her text of the letters and the narrative as well.

It was inevitable that George Washington should come at last into the *Heroes of the Nations* series, but it is a little disappointing that his entrance should be made in so sorry a plight as in Professor Harrison's romantic volume. This author seems to write under the spell which John Esten Cooke by his *History of Virginia* casts over the old and unscientific school of Virginia historians. He presents his story in a wealth of fantasy which Cooke himself would never have used. President Woodrow Wilson has made for us a beautifully idealized portrait of Washington in the style of a master painter, Mr. Paul Leicester Ford has given us a satisfactory account of Washington's inner life in most of its phases, and Mr. Lodge and others have presented valuable and

sufficient stories of Washington in his varied public relations; but the present writer has done neither. His intimate relations do not touch the real Washington, his presentation of the man of public affairs has the least possible regard for the problems or conditions of the time, and his whole picture is unreal.

To be more specific: "The strong, controlled passion of a soul which strove in vain to spend itself on men and affairs, now, at twenty-six, turned its ardour [*sic*] towards a lovely woman who was, like the gallant colonel himself, a 'consummate flower' of the Virginia planter common-wealth" (p. 114). And again, "Having married a fashionable woman, a sensible 'nut-brown' maid . . . Washington felt it necessary to be fashionable too, in all his dress and appointments" (p. 129). Probably Professor Harrison is the first man to attribute Washington's care to make a good appearance to the influence of his "nut-brown maid" who at the time of her marriage was the mother of two children. Washington's presidency is given to us in one chapter of twenty-seven pages, the first six of which bring us through the inauguration ceremonies of 1789. In the remaining part of the chapter there is but the slightest grasp of the subject. We are told: "The dear old mother-country had erred grievously in her behaviour [*sic*] toward her child, but Washington, forgiving but not forgetting, could not bring himself to break with her, eminent as were the claims of France to his gratitude, when the French war came on in the nineties. He loved England too much to set himself against her, and this exceeding affection at last put Britain—reversing Scripture—into the position of the prodigal mother who, having spent her immeasurable wealth of colonies in riotous living, came to fall at the feet of her child and ask its pardon" (p. 429). The scriptural allusion may be above criticism, although to the reviewer it seems a little mixed; but we may well ask, when did England fall at the feet of America during either the presidency or the life-time of Washington? Was it at the time of the Jay treaty? Or was it at the time of the French difficulty—which was not a war—when she was still insisting on the right of impressment and smiling to see how near the prospect of war with France was bringing, not England to America's feet, but America to England's?

*A History of the People of the United States, From the Revolution to the Civil War.* Volume VI., 1830–1842. By JOHN BACH McMASTER of the University of Pennsylvania. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1906. Pp. xviii, 658.)

BETWEEN the second war with England and the era of the Civil War there is one period which has been the favorite study of historians, and there is one typical character, the strenuous hero of that generation, who has always possessed an unfailing attraction for biographers. That period is the decade which scarcely contains the first three presi-